



Water Quality Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/28/11

Start Time: 12:30 pm

End Time: 2:00 pm

Meeting Method: Go-To-Meeting/Conference Call at island-specific sanctuary offices.

Meeting Objective: Discuss the threats matrix and potential recommendations

Attendance

Maui: Robin Newbold, Patty Miller (Sanctuary Maui Island Coordinator), Malia Chow, Maile Carpio (HOLON, LLC), Allen Tom, Robin Knox, Abby Miller, Jay Carpio, Mary Jorgensen, Mike Moran

Kaua'i: Gordan LaBedz (SAC – Ocean Recreation Alternate)

Big Island: Suzanne Shriner (Food and Water Watch)

O'ahu: Joseph Paulin (Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator and Staff Lead), Collin Crecco (NOAA Hollings Scholar*)

Lana'i: n/a

Called-in: Take Tomson (SAC – NOAA OLE and Vice Chair), Carol Wilcox

Agenda

- I Roll
- II Recap the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Presentation
- III Discuss the Threat Matrix
- IV Discuss developing recommendations
- V Discuss the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Presentation (scheduled for 08/18/11) and possible questions to submit in advance
- VI Public Comment



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VII Pau

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The meeting began with a recap of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary presentation from the last working group meeting. They partnered with other agencies and received outside sources of funding to address discharges and monitoring. Humpback Whale sanctuary needs to step up and take a more active role regarding monitoring of water quality within the sanctuary boundaries. To ensure the protection of an endangered species, the management plan should include plans to prevent pollution from boats and harbors. The MBNMS worked collaboratively to address water quality issues and monitoring associated with upland sources of pollution. The new management plan should implement rules to prevent waste discharges from boats. Harbors also contribute to water quality degradation in highly impacted areas. As the HHHWNMS goes more ecosystem-based, it may be shown that pollution is harming other animals other than humpback whales. Injection wells and harbors flush contaminants directly in the water. Pump, don't dump.

Rules regarding dumping need to be enforced. Holding tank dumping should be prohibited in any sanctuary area, especially in areas with large vessels such as in Maui. However, there should be information on the matter that provides evidence. Although cruise ship dumping is a known issue, should there be proof of that in order to provide a related recommendation? Cruise ships have a policy not to dump in sanctuary waters. Certain vessels, once beyond the three-mile limit, are not technically breaking the law. Pump-out systems are only situated on certain sides of harbors. Lahaina Harbor pump-out station is hard to access. EPA does not have the authority to control all discharges so the community needs to connect more with the sanctuary to ensure stewardship standards are being met. Sanctuary should write comments on EISs, EAs, and NPDES permits because they are water quality issues. There have been regulations on two stroke jet skis in other MPAs that have been issues with big wave surfers since they are used for safety.

Boats should not be able to discharge in sanctuary waters (injection wells is a different issue). Sanctuary staff should monitor all discharges into the oceans regarding new developments on the beach, NPDES permits, etc. Maui already has volunteer monitoring groups but needs a scientist on staff to provide technical support. Sanctuary staff can also comment on water quality standards since they are revised periodically. Pollution control agencies can benefit from sanctuary staff comments and recommendations to ensure further collaborative efforts. Outreach efforts are extremely important to provide comments to Clean Water Act related activities.

Changes to the Matrix

The matrix is possibly too complex to utilize. A condensed version may be more helpful. The first three columns are helpful but when the matrix gets into impact weight, the column is not suitable because it will depend on individual watersheds. Threats, causes, and impacts columns provide valuable information and can be finished. An assessment should be done to analyze threats, causes, and impacts of water quality. In terms of sediment, storm water systems can be cause of sediments delivered to oceans and should be captured. This can be captured in a new 5th square



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stating storm water systems (municipal storm water as cause) are a cause. The design of the system is a cause to pollution. Storm water running into sanctuary waters should be addressed because it is a large problem. The sanctuary's involvement should expand to encompass commenting on and monitoring activities such as boat discharges and runoff issues from stormwater. Hawai'i needs implementation of these comments. Wild fire and stream bank erosion should also be included in addition of sediments section of the matrix. Stormwater outlets as point sources should be identified. Under sources, should add "storm drain system" as a source. Alien algae and disease-causing bacteria should be additional causes. Priority column should be filled in for resource managers to address which problems should be tackled first. Sediment, nutrients, and invasive species would be top three priorities for most islands.

The matrix can provide backing behind a given recommendation because the matrix represents agreed on issues. To clarify, "Current Sanctuary Programs" columns represented with "None" represents issues not directly addressed by the sanctuary. EPA has new regulations regarding construction sites limitations that help with non-agricultural sedimentation. Identifying "point sources" of pollution may require different language like "discharge point." Inventory of where discharge points are located can be created by volunteer network because it doesn't require much training and would be effective in identifying major discharge points.

There will be a meeting on August 11th to address overlapping areas from the working groups. There is a possibility for joint recommendations that come out of multiple working groups. Recommendations made during this meeting should be accessible during the August 11th meeting.

Should prohibit aquaculture in the sanctuary or undergo rigorous baseline water testing for developments (such as aquaculture) before the installation and keep it ongoing as the operation continues.

Education and outreach—need to enhance educational messages about water quality and the volunteer program to build a public awareness and support.

Potential recommendations from notes have been put into a matrix. Topics that have repeatedly come up from the group are included in the matrix. Possible issues and questions to ask the SI at the FKNMS should be addressed to Joe before the meeting. The MBNMS and FKNMS are the only two sanctuaries that are involved with water quality.

Potential Recommendations:

There should be rules to address discharge in Lahaina and Ma'alaea Harbors and Hanalei Bay.

The sanctuary should become an ecosystem-based sanctuary.

Federal funds should be sought for pump-out stations in heavily used harbors.

Holding-tank dumping should be prohibited in sanctuary areas.



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The sanctuary should address water quality problems on land that affect the ocean.

The sanctuary should participate in watershed planning as a stakeholder and connect more on stewardship efforts that are beyond sanctuary authority.

The sanctuary should comment on NPDES permits, EA's, and EIS's that could impact water quality in the sanctuary.

Boats should not be allowed to discharge into sanctuary waters.

Sanctuary staff should monitor inputs into the ocean and comment on rule-making related to water quality. A fulltime staff person should be assigned.

The sanctuary should be involved in any discharge issues in the sanctuary, monitor, and comment on stormwater and discharge issues.

The sanctuary should look at stormwater systems on a county level to assess effectiveness.

The sanctuary should work with EPA to regulate stormwater outlets. Numeric limits and post-construction stormwater requirements should be established.

There should be an inventory of discharge points and mapping program – could be combined with a volunteer program.

There should be base-line testing before and after the installation of offshore projects, especially aquaculture.

Prohibit aquaculture in sanctuary waters. [specific type?]

There should be signage around the islands about water quality, volunteer programs, and a map of the sanctuary to build public awareness.

The number one priority should be an ecosystem-based sanctuary and cultural issues that relate to water quality.

Next Meeting: August 18th at 12pm - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary presentation

Public Comment: No public comment.



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Action Items:

For Group:

Start thinking about possible recommendations

Send Joe questions by next Friday, August 5th for the FKNMS meeting on August 18th at 12pm

Mark priorities and comments on matrix and send to Joe in Track Changes or change color of font.

For Joe:

Compile recommendations and disperse them to group members to add to.

For additional information contact Joseph Paulin at 808-397-2651 x 257 or

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